

~~SECRET~~

Department of State

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

R

J.  
(E93)

PREMIER TIKHONOV'S UNCOMPROMISING STATEMENTS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS APPEARING IN PRAVDA THIS WEEK SUGGEST THAT MOSCOW DOES NOT EXPECT THE RECENT JAPANESE ELECTIONS TO AFFECT TOKYO'S FOREIGN POLICY. ■

TIKHONOV, ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM THE JAPANESE PRESS, ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER NAKASONE OF TAKING ITS CUE FROM THE US IN "DISMANTLING THE ENTIRE SYSTEM OF SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS" ESTABLISHED DURING THE POSTWAR PERIOD. HE REITERATED INTEREST IN IMPROVING TIES WITH JAPAN AND REPEATED THE SOVIET POSITION ON INF

PAGE 5 RUEAIIA 4416 ■  
DEPLOYMENTS IN EUROPE BUT REJECTED ANY BLAME FOR THE CURRENT STALEMATE ON EITHER POINT. ■

MEANWHILE, A TASS DISPATCH FROM TOKYO ON SUNDAY STRONGLY CRITICIZED NAKASONE'S FIRST MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT SINCE THE JAPANESE ELECTIONS IN MID-DECEMBER, IN WHICH HE REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE OF US-JAPANESE RELATIONS. SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE ELECTIONS PORTRAYED THE SETBACK DEALT TO NAKASONE'S LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AS EVIDENCE OF POPULAR OPPOSITION TO TOKYO'S PRO-US POLICIES BUT PREDICTED THAT THOSE POLICIES WOULD NOT CHANGE. ■

COMMENT: THE TIKHONOV INTERVIEW SUGGESTS THE SOVIETS EXPECT NO REAL CHANGE IN POLICY AND HAVE CONCLUDED THEY HAVE LITTLE TO GAIN FROM DEMONSTRATING FLEXIBILITY, AT LEAST AT PRESENT. THEY CONTINUE TO BLAME TOKYO FOR THE RECENT DOWNTURN IN TRADE AND OTHER CONTACTS, WHILE UNDERLINING THEIR RESOLVE TO STAND FIRM ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES AND OTHER ISSUES TROUBLING RELATIONS. ■

MOSCOW APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT ITS BEST COURSE IS TO KEEP HAMMERING AWAY ON THE DANGERS OF JAPAN'S SECURITY TIES WITH THE US,

PAGE 6 RUEAIIA 4416 ■  
WITH THE HOPE THAT JAPANESE PUBLIC OPINION WILL EVENTUALLY FORCE CHANGES IN TOKYO'S FOREIGN POLICY. TOKYO BELIEVES IT IS UP TO THE SOVIETS TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP. ■

EOT

~~SECRET~~

920565 • 34